

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a plurality of developing devices each
including a developer carrying member for carrying a
5 developer to develop an electrostatic latent image
formed on an image bearing member, and a developer
regulating member for regulating the developer carried
on said developer carrying member;

common voltage applying means for applying a
10 common voltage to said plurality of develop our
regulating members,

wherein a first one of said developer
carrying members is rotating, and a second one of said
developer carrying members is not rotating, a
15 potential difference between said second developer
carrying member and said common voltage is smaller
than a voltage difference between said first developer
carrying member and said common voltage.

20 2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said
image forming apparatus is selectively operable in a
first image formation mode in which said first and
second developer carrying members are rotated, and in
a second image formation mode in which said first
25 developer carrying member is rotated, and said second
developer carrying member is not rotated.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein voltages applied to said developer carrying members are variable independently from each other.

5 4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least during operations of said plurality of developing devices, the voltages are applied to said developer carrying members, and said developer carrying members are supplied with common voltages by
10 said voltage applying means.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are respectively variable in accordance with results
15 of detections of densities of reference images formed using respective developer carrying members.

6. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when said second developer carrying member starts to
20 rotate, said second developer carrying member is supplied with a voltage which is closer to a voltage opposite from a charge polarity of the developer than the voltage applied during the developing operation, before said second developer carrying member is
25 supplied with a voltage which is to be applied during the developing operation.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when said second developer carrying member starts to rotate, said second developer carrying member is supplied with a voltage having a polarity which is opposite from a charge polarity of the developer, before said second developer carrying member is supplied with a voltage which is to be applied during the developing operation.

8. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of image bearing members corresponding to said developing devices, respectively, and said developer carrying members are contactable to associated ones of the image bearing members, respectively, and when said second developer carrying member is not in operation for developing action, said second developer carrying member is at rest, and said second developer carrying member is spaced away from the associated one of the image bearing members, and wherein when said second developer carrying member is in operation for developing action, said second developer carrying member is contacted to the associated one of the image bearing members.

9. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of image bearing members

corresponding to said developing devices,
respectively, and said developer carrying members are
contactable to associated ones of the image bearing
members, respectively, and when said second developer
5 carrying member is not in operation for developing
action, said second developer carrying member is at
rest, and said second developer carrying member is
spaced away from the associated one of the image
bearing members, and wherein when said second
10 developer carrying member is in operation for
developing action, said second developer carrying
member is supplied with a developing voltage, and then
is contacted to the associated one of the image
bearing members.

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10. An apparatus according to Claim 8 or 9, wherein
said second developer carrying member is spaced away
from the associated one of the image bearing members,
the image bearing members is not rotated.

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11. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the
variable voltages applied to said developer carrying
members are DC voltages.

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12. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further
comprising a plurality of image bearing members
corresponding to said developer carrying members,

respectively.

13. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein one
of said developing devices is provided in a process
5 cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly of
the image forming apparatus together with the image
bearing member.

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